



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

APRIL 4, 2016

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following: (1) Council on Aging Board, (1) Trust Fund Commission and (1) Conservation Commission. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

ROADS

I met with the Steve Nims and Mary Calandrella from DPW about applying for a MassGrant for the reconstruction and paving of Harris, Cross, Ferin Roads, and Lakeshore Drive. Timeline for grant is: Applications open in June, due by September, selected in November and monies available in spring of next year. I have also discussed with Sen. Gobi's staff to solicit support on the application review process. The grants can be as much as \$1M. This program is specific to rural roads that are in communities of less than 7,000. The timing of this grant is good due to us starting work before the next fiscal year's Chapter 90 funds.

We should also be receiving our approved FEMA monies from the January 2015 storm in the amount of \$32,717 which will go to free cash next year. Great job by all involved.

BUDGET

Capital Planning met on Wednesday the 30th. The AWRSD was represented by Gary Mazzola and Sherry Kersey. Their capital plan for FY17 will be funded by reducing their budget and our assessment will not increase. The Committee reviewed the assets for the Capital Article as well as article for the STM and are in agreement at to what is being presented.

INSURANCE

Tonight I am asking the Board to accept Chapter 32b section 21-23 which will allow the town to make design changes in the health care insurance program. Prior to tonight's meeting letters of notification of tonight's meeting were hand delivered to members of our Insurance Advisory Group which include union and nonunion representatives as well as retirees. In conjunction with this vote our insurance advisor has gone out for quotes for new policy starting on July 1, 2016. It is not known how much it will save the employees and the town, but it is incumbent to the town to share 25% of the original savings with all enrollees. The school district and town of Westminster all have or will be taking the same action.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Met with Kelly Brown from Energy Commission and reviewed our current project status as well as looking into future funding and projects. The Committee will be submitting a grant application for the competitive grant program for next year. Due to money limitations the completion of all the work needed will be in two phases the first being completed this spring.

WATER & SEWER

Steve Nims and I met with the Joint Water Authority to review the contract for Veolia. After discussions about whether we wanted to look to take over the operation of the plant. It was determined not at this time and they entered into a five year contract. Next contract will need to rebid.

We have been in discussion with the Winchendon Town Manager about taking over ownership of the Sherbet Road water line. Currently it is owned by Winchendon. We would take over ownership and Winchendon would reimburse for the cost of installing a new line. They would be billed off a new meter at the town line area. There

are currently over three hundred water users billed off this same line. This is only in the discussion phase at this point.

I am recommending that the Board of Selectmen vote at the end of this fiscal year to reappoint the W&S Commissioners. Due to a procedural error there is no alternative action to be taken. I also suggest staggered terms. We had a very constructive meeting as to how we will communicate and interact.